

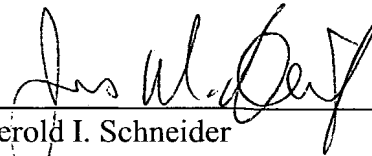
REMARKS

Claims 1-18 stand rejected as being obvious over the combination of Chu (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,778) and Madsen (U.S. Patent No. 5,827,982). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent Claims 1 and 13, the only currently pending independent claims, have been amended to recite that “the first dimension is at least five times greater than the second dimension.” This feature is neither taught nor suggested by Chu or Madsen. To the contrary, Madsen teaches away from such a limitation. At col. 2, lines 26-66, teaches that the use of long, thin cones or stepped cylinders as objects for testing resolution of ultrasound scanners is not desirable because “tests involving cylindrical targets do not adequately evaluate an ultrasound scanner regarding detection of focal lesions” and that test objects that are spherical should be used. Accordingly, Madsen teaches a using circular subset of the array for calculating signal to noise ratios as shown in Figure 19. Chu also teaches array subsets that are circular as shown in Figure 3 of Chu. Thus, the combination of Madsen and Chu fails to disclose or suggest an array subset with a first dimension at least five times greater than the second dimension as required by all currently pending claims and, in fact, actually teaches away from such a subset. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' counsel, James M. Heintz, at (202) 861-4167.

Respectfully submitted,

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